

I am writing concerning the Sinclair group's forcing our local stations to air what can only be called a political attack add. While I understand it would be illegal to air such an add even if it were a positive endorsement, the idea of one group having the power to control my local broadcast stations and force them to air political messages is very troubling. I grew up being told that the broadcast airwaves fundamentally belonged to the citizens and were only licensed to private companies as a cooperative effort. Public and private benefit together. I know this concept has been eroded over the years, but I believe absolutely that it must remain fundamental in the area of politics and public policy if our democracy is to thrive. The ownership of so many information outlets by so few, evidently a powerful few, is critically dangerous if they are allowed to start using that power to [illegally] influence public debate and elections. Specially through the use of such outrageous and heavy handed tactics as to force stations to break the law and public trust. Thank You for your attention.